CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-6 (canceled)

7. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule ~~or reverse complement thereof at least 20 nucleotides in length~~ consisting of at least 20 nucleotides unique to a reverse or forward strand of~~comprising a sequence of nucleotides which specifically hybridizes °to~~ a non-coding region of ~~the nucleic acid molecu~~ SEQ ID NO:4, wherein said region is~~le of claim 1, which non-coding region is~~ selected from the group consisting of an intron, a ~~splice junction~~contiguous exon-intron region, a contiguous intron-exon region, a 5'- non-coding region depicted in nucleotides 51039-41739 of SEQ ID NO:4, ~~an expression control sequence, a transcription factor binding region~~ and a 3'-non-coding region depicted in nucleotides 9503-1 of SEQ ID NO:4.

8 . (withdrawn) A method of diagnosing a pathological condition or susceptibility to a pathological condition in a subject comprising:

(a) isolating genomic DNA from a subject;

(b) determining the presence or absence of a variant in said genomic DNA using the nucleic acid molecule of claim 7;

(c) diagnosing a pathological condition or a susceptibility to a pathological condition based on the presence or absence of said variant.

Claim 9 (canceled)

10. (previously presented) A composition comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 7 and a carrier.

Claim 11 (canceled)

12. (currently amended) A method for modulating levels of ~~human carboxypeptidase M or~~ human mouse double minute 2 homolog in a subject in need thereof comprising administering to said subject an amount of the nucleic acid molecule of claim 7 effective to modulate said ~~human carboxypeptidase M or~~ human mouse double minute 2 homolog levels.

Claim 13 (canceled)

14. (withdrawn) A method for preventing, treating or ameliorating a medical condition, comprising administering to a subject an amount of the nucleic acid molecule of claim 7 effective to prevent, treat or ameliorate said medical condition.

15. (previously presented) A kit comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 7.

16. (previously presented) The kit according to claim 15, in which the nucleic acid molecule is labeled with a detectable substance.

17. (previously presented) A solid support comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 7.

18. (original) The solid support of claim 17 wherein said support is a microarray.

Claim 19 (canceled)

20. (currently amended) The solid support of claim 18, ~~wherein said microarray~~which further comprises a nucleic acid molecule encoding ~~human carboxypeptidase M and/or~~ human mouse double minute 2 homolog, complementary sequence thereof or a portion ~~thereof~~ of said nucleic acid molecule containing at least 20 nucleotides.

Claim 21 (canceled)

22. (currently amended) A method of identifying variants of ~~SEQ ID NO:3 or~~ SEQ ID NO:4, or its complementary sequence, comprising
(a) isolating genomic DNA from a subject and
(b) determining the presence or absence of a variant in said genomic DNA using the nucleic acid molecule of claim 7.

23. (new) A method for detecting the presence or absence of SEQ ID NO:4 or its complementary sequence in a sample, said method comprising contacting the sample with the nucleic acid molecule of claim 7 and determining whether the nucleic acid molecule binds to said nucleic acid sequence in the sample.

24. (new) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of at least 20 nucleotides unique to a reverse or forward strand of a contiguous exon-intron region or a contiguous intron-exon region.

25. (new) The isolated nucleic acid sequence of claim 24, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is 20-5000 nucleotides in length and contains nucleotides 40645-40646, 36309-36310, 36384-36385, 32994-32995, 33126-33127, 29564-29565, 29615-29616, 25507-25508, 25287-25288, 25383-25384, 25576-25577, 21006-21007, 21168-21169, 13953-13954, 14109-14110, 13188-13189, 13266-13267, or 10664-10665 of SEQ ID NO:4 or their reverse strands.

26.(new) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 7, consisting of at least 20 nucleotides unique to a reverse strand of a noncoding region of SEQ ID NO:4, wherein said region is selected from the group consisting of an intron, a contiguous exon-intron region, a contiguous intron-exon region, a 5'- non-coding region depicted in nucleotides 51039-41739 of SEQ ID NO:4 and a 3' non-coding region depicted in nucleotides 9503-1 of SEQ ID NO:4.

27.(new) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 7, consisting of at least 20 nucleotides unique to a forward strand of a noncoding region of SEQ ID NO:4, wherein said region is selected from the group consisting of an intron, a contiguous exon-intron region, a contiguous intron-exon region, a 5'- non-coding region depicted in nucleotides 51039-41739 of SEQ ID NO:4 and a 3' non-coding region depicted in nucleotides 9503-1 of SEQ ID NO:4.

28. (new) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 7 wherein said molecule consists of between 20 and 5000 nucleotides.

29. (new) An isolated nucleic acid molecule containing between 20 and 5000 nucleotides or its reverse strand that hybridizes at 55°C, 5X SCC to a region of SEQ ID NO:4 or its reverse strand, which region is selected from the group consisting of an intron, a contiguous exon-intron region, a contiguous intron-exon region, a 5'- non-coding region depicted in nucleotides 51039-41739 of SEQ ID NO:4 and a 3' non-coding region depicted in nucleotides

9503-1 of SEQ ID NO:4, wherein said region is unique to SEQ ID NO:4 or its reverse strand.

30. (new) A microarray comprising a plurality of the nucleic acid molecules of claim 7.

31. (new) The microarray of claim 30 wherein said microarray further comprises a nucleic acid molecule encoding human mouse double minute 2 homolog, complementary sequence thereof or a portion of said nucleic acid molecule containing at least 20 nucleotides..